

The Smith Homestead  
155 Millburn Avenue  
Millburn, Essex County, New Jersey

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N.J.  
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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Smith Homestead  
155 Millburn Avenue  
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Owner: (Mr. C. <sup>R</sup>H. Reeves) JOHN RYDER ROSE

Date of Erection: 1730, addition built  
in 1798

Architect:

Builder: A member of the Smith family

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - frame  
construction, clapboards

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Knotted pine floors

Roof - pitch with dormers

Historical Data:

The Smith Homestead stood a few hundred feet from the end of the old Vaux Hall Road. About a mile from the house on this road an engagement took place between the Hessians and the American militia during the Battle of Springfield in 1780.

Two deserting Hessians sought refuge and work from the Hendersons who occupied the house at that time. They remained for a time with them working for their board and lodging. Later they were taken to the military court at Orange and released. Eventually, one of them went to Oak Ridge on the mountain where he is supposed to have married a daughter of the farmer living there. It is thought that the Van Werts descended from this union. Because of this incident the house is sometimes known as the Hessian House.

Officers of the Continental army were quartered in this building during the Battle of Springfield. Washington is supposed to have stopped at the house as a guest.

The house remained in the Smith family for sixty years after its erection and was purchased in 1790 by James Henderson. During the Henderson ownership an addition was built. In 1853 the property was repurchased by the Smith heirs and remained in the Smith family until 1927 when the present owner acquired it. The door knocker of the house bears the name Henderson.

#### Bibliography:

Shaw, W.H. History of Essex and Hudson Counties, New Jersey 2 Volumes Philadelphia, Everts and Peck, 1884

Information from the owner

Field Book and Drawings of Survey

Walter C. Rutt  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.  
District Officer

Rec. Jan. 25. 31 TWC